

ER-7-7087 A  
DD/S 55-3399 A

28 DEC 1955

Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey,  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Humphrey:

I refer to your letter of 9 December 1955 to Mr. Dulles, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Walter T. Ridder on the subject of the proposed location of CIA headquarters at Langley, Virginia.

We are troubled by a number of the allegations in Mr. Ridder's letter, and I would appreciate it if you would allow me to send Mr. [redacted] of this Agency, to your office to discuss this matter with you. [redacted] will also be in a position to discuss in detail the specific questions raised in your letter. I am making this request because I feel that any letter I might send you at this time could not cover the subject as thoroughly as it should be covered.

If this approach is acceptable to you, I would suggest that your office contact [redacted] who will arrange to come to your office whenever it is convenient for you to see him.

Pending a further discussion of the matter, you may find the attached report of some interest. It was prepared by the distinguished consulting engineers, Clarke and Rapuano, and formed the basis for the site proposal recently considered by the National Capital Planning Commission.

for Actg. OCT sig.  
IG:NSP/blc (19 Dec. 55) Rewrtn 27 Dec. 55)

Orig. & 1 - Add

2 - Signer w/cy of basic

2 - Legis. Couns. w/cy of basic

2 - DD/S " " "

1 - Dir. of Log.

1 - C/BPS/Log. w/basic

Attachment

/s/ L. K. White

/s/ Lyman Kirkpatrick

Approved For Release 2003/03/28 : CIA-RDP80R01731R001600090001-9

DD/Support 21 Dec. 55

DOCUMENT NO. [redacted]

NO CHANGE IN CLASS.

DECLASSIFIED

CLASS CHANGED TO: TS S 6

STAT

Sincerely,

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HR 70-2

DATE: 1 MAY 1981 REVIEWER: [redacted]

C. P. CABELL  
Lieutenant General, USAF

Acting Director

CONCUR: (see attached for signatures)

Conq.

ER-7-7087 A

DOCUMENT NO. [REDACTED]  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.   
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CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE:  
AUTH: HR 10-2  
DATE: 1 MAY 1981 REVIEWER: [REDACTED]

STAT

Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Humphrey:

I refer to your letter of 9 December 1955, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Walter T. Ridder on the subject of the proposed location of CIA headquarters at Langley, Virginia.

We are [REDACTED]  
I am troubled by a number of the allegations in Mr. Ridder's letter, and would appreciate it if you would allow me to send Mr. [REDACTED] of this Agency, to your office to discuss this matter with you. [REDACTED] will also be in a position to discuss in detail the specific questions raised in your letter, to me. I am making this request because I feel that any letter I might send you at this time could not cover the subject as thoroughly as it should be covered.

If this approach is acceptable to you, I would suggest that your office contact [REDACTED] who will arrange to come to your office whenever it is convenient for you to see him.

Pending a further discussion of the matter, you may find the attached report of some interest. It was prepared by the distinguished consulting engineers, Clarke and Rapuano, and formed the basis for the site proposal recently considered by the National Capital Planning Commission.

IG:NSP/blc (19 Dec. 55)

Orig. & 1 - Add

2 - Signed *W. T. Ridder* Legislative Counsel w/cy of basic

2 - DD/S " 1 - Dir. of Log.

1 - C/BPS/Log. w/basic

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles

A. P. Cabell  
Deputy Director  
Director  
Acting Director

CONCUR:

STAT

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

[REDACTED] brought this over and said  
it does have Red White's concurrence.



34(0) - 194 - 46

15 Dec 55  
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101  
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

STAT

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

In connection with the possible location of our building at Langley, Senator Morse has written to you expressing his concern about further pollution of the Potomac River and his understanding that our location at Langley would require double-decking of the Chain Bridge. He is interested in any information which will disclose the impact of these additional costs on the budget of the District of Columbia.

It is true that Clarke & Rapuano have recommended improvements which will have an impact on the D. C. budget; however, I think we must resist the interpretation which will be made by some that these improvements are attributable solely to our

MEMORANDUM FOR:

locating at Langley. If we forward a copy of the attachment which deals with these subjects I do not believe that we could be criticized.

With regard to sewage, we have a copy of a letter from the U. S. Army District Engineer to the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission advising that the Corps of Engineers would interpose no objection to our locating at Langley.

Recommend signature of the attached proposed reply to Senator Morse's letter.

L. K. WHITE  
Deputy Director (Support)

2 Nov 55

(DATE)

Mann

DCE says  
in view of NCPC rats  
he prefers not to  
make a lengthy reply  
but just a short  
note asking the Soviets  
if you can't stop  
by and explain  
the thing to him.  
Appreciate it if  
you wanted handle.



9/11

STAT

DOCUMENT NO. [REDACTED]  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.  STAT  
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CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: [REDACTED]  
AUTH: [REDACTED] MAY  
DATE: [REDACTED] 1981 REVIEWER: [REDACTED]

Senator Hubert H. Humphrey  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Humphrey:

I refer to your letter of 9 December 1955, enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Walter T. Ridder on the subject of the proposed location of CIA headquarters at Langley, Virginia.

Mr. Ridder has indicated in his letter that this Agency is using various unethical means to influence the determinations of the National Capital Planning Commission on the location of our proposed building, and that we are in general attempting to secure a rubber stamp decision by the Commission on this matter. These allegations are in complete variation with the facts of the case. We fully recognize the rights and responsibilities of the National Capital Planning Commission in this matter, and have cooperated in every way with them in their desire to reach an objective conclusion based on all the relevant facts. In answer to your specific question, I have not told the Planning Commission what this Agency intends to do, irrespective of the recommendations they may ultimately make. I have indicated to the Commission that, based on all the evidence available to us and following a long and careful study of the problem, we believe Langley is the site best suited for our purposes. No final decision has been made as to the location of CIA headquarters, nor will it be made until the Commission has had an opportunity to explore all the facts to its satisfaction, and has made its recommendation.

I am disturbed by the further inferences in Mr. Ridder's letter that we have attempted to apply "political pressure" to bring about a favorable action on the Langley site. It is true

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that I and members of my staff have discussed the matter with interested members of Congress, members of the Commission, local government officials and others. All of our discussions, however, have been for the sole purpose of providing factual data derived from professional studies which we have sponsored, with a view toward insuring that all interested parties have a complete knowledge as to the various factors which led to our proposal for location of our headquarters at Langley. Many of these discussions were held at the request of the individuals concerned, and in no case were threats or pressures of any kind exerted.

You have asked why we have concluded that the Langley site is more acceptable than the site which had been proposed at the Winkler tract in Alexandria. There are a number of reasons for our conclusion in this regard, the outstanding one of which is the traffic situation on the access to these two locations, which would be considerably more favorable if we were to locate at Langley assuming that road improvements already planned are put into effect. As for cost, it is true that the extension of the George Washington Memorial Parkway to the Langley area would be a necessary prerequisite to the location of our headquarters there. This extension has been authorized by the Congress and certain funds have already been appropriated for that purpose. As you are undoubtedly aware, the original authorization for this Parkway, to extend from Mount Vernon to Great Falls, was passed by the Congress in 1930. Therefore, the location of CIA at Langley would simply expedite the construction of a road segment which has long been determined to be necessary and in the public interest.

I hope that this letter has answered at least some of the questions that have been raised in your mind regarding the location of our headquarters. There is a great deal more, however, which should be said in order to give you a complete picture of the situation and of the various factors which led to our proposal for location at Langley. I would, therefore, appreciate it if you would regard this as an interim reply from us, and would permit senior representatives of this Agency to call on you at your convenience for the purpose of adding further details which we feel would be most useful to you in regard to this matter. If this approach is acceptable to you, I would suggest that your office contact Colonel Lawrence K. White at [redacted]

[redacted] who will arrange to come to your office whenever it is convenient for you to see him.

STAT

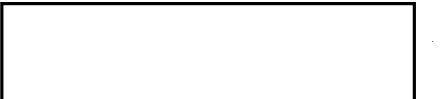
Sincerely yours,

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

EX 7-7087A

Acknowledgment of Senator Hubert H. Humphrey's letter of  
9 December 1955 regarding CIA location.

CONCURRED:



Deputy Director/Support

*anyp*  
IG:NSP:fm (15 Dec 55)

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee  
2 - Signer w/ copy of basic  
2 - Legislative Counsel w/ copy of basic  
2 - DD/S w/ copy of basic  
1 - D/Logistics  
1 - C/BPS/Logistics w/ basic

C O P Y

December 9, 1955

Allen W. Dulles, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

Attached is a copy of a letter that I received the other day from one of the residents in the Langley, Virginia, area. It raises the question again as to why the CIA is locating its new headquarters at the Langley site. You may recall my letter to you of July 12th on this same subject. I refer you to it again.

My correspondent seems to raise a very appropriate question. Did the CIA receive the approval of the Planning Commission, or has the CIA told the Planning Commission what it is going to do and then asked for the Planning Commission's advice and counsel as to how best to do it? If it is the latter that has been done, it surely appears that this is contrary to public policy.

I continue to get letters, as I am sure other members of Congress do, concerning the decision of the CIA to move to Langley. What is it that makes this site so much more acceptable than the Alexandria site, for example? Surely it cannot be the cost factor, since from the estimates I have seen it seems the Langley site will be much more costly, despite the fact that the government owns a considerable tract of land in the area. The costs of improvements, as I understand it, will exceed any cost for land purchase elsewhere where the improvements are already available.

I hesitate to burden you with this matter, but in view of the fact that so many people continue to protest the decision of the CIA, I felt that I should bring this to your attention.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Hubert H. Humphrey

DOCUMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.   
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CLASS CHANGED TO: TS S A  
DATE: MR 10-2  
DATE: 1 MAY 1981 REVIEWER: \_\_\_\_\_

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NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTH: MR 70-2  
DATE: 1 MAY 1981 REVIEWER: \_\_\_\_\_

STAT

Dear Senator Humphrey:

I recall your initiative and interest at the last Session of Congress in S. Con. Res. #2 providing for the establishment of a Joint Congressional Committee to supervise the operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

I would like to call to your attention the recent conduct of several officials of that Agency which to me clearly illustrates the need for the kind of Congressional supervision contemplated by your proposal.

For months now there has been a public controversy over where the C.I.A.'s proposed new \$46 million headquarters building should be located. C.I.A. wants to locate it just outside Washington at Langley, in Fairfax County, Virginia, on land now owned by the Bureau of Public Roads. Most planning experts and many residents of the area consider the Langley site to be entirely unsuitable for a variety of reasons and have protested the C.I.A.'s choice of Langley.

On November 4th C.I.A., as required by law, requested the advice of the National Capital Planning Commission on the location of its proposed building. The Commission is now studying the problem and is expected to give its planning advice at its next meeting on December 15-16.

But C.I.A. is apparently unwilling to have the Commission study the problem on its merits and to give its impartial advice. C.I.A. is now engaged in trying to influence through political pressure the planning bodies studying the question. For example, about ten days ago the Fairfax County representative on the National Capital Regional Planning Council was telephoned by Colonel Lawrence K. White, a Deputy Director of C.I.A., and told that C.I.A. had "decided" that it would not locate anywhere in Virginia unless it could locate at Langley. The suggestion was made that if Virginia wanted the agency all the Virginia representatives had better support the Langley site.

Again, last week Representative Joel T. Broyhill, in whose district both the Langley and one alternative site are located, was spoken to twice by Colonel White and once by Mr. Allen Dulles himself, the Director of C.I.A., who told Mr. Broyhill "officially" that C.I.A. would go to no other site in Virginia except Langley.

Prior to this Mr. Dulles had also stated that he had decided not to locate C.I.A. in the District of Columbia.

What is the significance of all this?

By law C.I.A.'s decision as to site location must be based on consideration of the advice of the Planning Commission. C.I.A. is now trying to turn the procedure around to where the advice of the Planning Commission would be merely to rubber stamp C.I.A.'s prior decision as to where it will and will not go.

Congress, the public and C.I.A. itself are entitled to have the Planning Commission's best independent advice as to where the Agency should locate. This advice should be based on factual study and planning considerations. After this advice is received, decisions as to where and where not to locate should be made.

It would appear that the C.I.A. is first reaching a decision as to what ought to be done and is then trying to have the supposedly factual studies and advice tailored to support its prior decision.

This indication of how our intelligence service operates raises far more serious questions than the simple geographical questions of the best location for its headquarters building. If the Agency will use questionable means for this relatively unimportant end, what may their practice be in matters of real importance? How, indeed, will we know, unless there is some kind of really objective scrutiny in the public interest - the kind of scrutiny that only a Joint Congressional Committee could properly provide.

I urge you to continue your efforts in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Walter T. Ridder